THE

PIOUS INSTRUCTOR,

OR, THE

Heavenly Warning PIECE.

Being a TOKEN for YOUTH.

I. Advice to arm young People of both Sexes against evil Company, as being the Forerunner of Destruction.

II. A Warning to them against Disobedience.

III. The Blessing promis'd by God to all such as obey their Parents.

IV. The happy Reward of all such as keep holy the Sabbath Day.

V. A Caution to all Persons how they provoke God by oppressing the Fatherless and the Widows.

VI. The great Reason why so many Children come to unhappy Ends, for want of pious Instructions.

Written by D. B. late Lord Bishop of S——y, and found in his Closet after his Decease.

Licens'd, and Entred according to Order.

The Pious Instructor, &c.

1. LOT, a gracious Person, when he delay'd his coming out of Sodom, the angels of the Lord bid him flee for his Life, lest he should be destroyed, *Gen.* xix. 17.

2. Moses, that was so tender of God's Children, he commands them to stand off the tents of these wicked men, Corah, Dathan and Abiram, not to touch any thing belonging to them yet they were destroyed. See what a dangerous Thing it is to touch any thing that belong to the wicked, *Numb.* xvi. 26.

3. Jehosaphat, a gracious King, as we read in the bible, his keeping company, and making himself familiar, and helping of wicked King Ahab, he was near losing of his Life, had he not cried unto the Lord, and the Lord helped him. Have a care how you keep bad company, let this great King be always in your mind, *Cor.* xviii. 2. And how severely he was reproved by God's Prophet, Chap. xix. 2. You cannot keep

God's commandments, if you keep bad company.

4. Abraham would not ſtay long in that place becauſe the people were wicked. Read often the 7th Pſalm, and let this adviſe you, as you value the good of your poor ſouls; have a care, both old and young, how you are familiar with bad company. How many Tears has it coſt parents to ſee their children keep bad company.

5. Remember, 'tis the ſaying of all poor creatures that end their days at the gallows, firſt Sabbath breaking, ſecond diſobedience to their Parents, third bad company.

6. Be ſure, always have a ſpecial care not to be a companion of wicked perſons. Read often young people, *Prov.* iii. 33. The curſe of the Lord is in the houſe of the wicked, ſaysour Lord and Saviour 3 times in *Mark* 9. The wicked ſhall go to Hell: If you are reſolved to keep bad company, and will not hearken to the word of God, nor the Voice of your conſcience, in the end it will prove your ruin, undoing, and deſtruction, and nothing but God's Judgments will be at your heels.

1ſt. Remember Cain was a wicked child, and a wicked child is marked by God. He cries out, My puniſhment is greater than I can bear.

His conſcience ſaw in his face. He call'd himſelf a fugitive and a vagabond on earth, and every one that met him would ſlay him; a vagabond and a rogue, and his mark is, he is a murderer, and ſo is recorded to ſtand for ever, *Gen.* iv. 12.

2d. Here is another wicked child marked with a terrible mark, which is a ſecond ſon of Noah; he ſees his father lie in a drunken condition, he mocks his father and tells it to his two brothers; they like good children took a garment, and covered their father, they ſaw not their father's nakedneſs. See what follows, theſe two have a bleſſing from their father, from one proceed the Jews, and from the other the Gentiles, and they were both bleſſed of God. But Ham, that mocked his father of Canaan, they are all a wicked generation that proceed from him. Have a care all you wicked children you get not the curſe of your parents, you loſe the bleſſing of God; be ſure you have a ſpecial care not to provoke your parents to ſay that in their haſte, they may be ſorry for it when is too late, you ſee this curſe fell upon Ham's Poſterity, *Gen.* ix.

3. Here is another wicked child, with a ſad mark, he loſes the bleſſing of his father, and

could never have the bleſſing of God, 'tis poor Eſau's condition. Jacob got his father's bleſſing, and poor Eſau loſt it, *Gen.* xxvii. 34. How Eſau lift up his voice and wept bitterly, with exceeding bitter cry, haſt thou but one bleſſing father, but one bleſſing? and he wept again. Said the father to him Jacob is bleſſed, and he ſhall be bleſſed: As if he had ſaid it is too late I cannot call the bleſſing back again he has got the bleſſing, and the bleſſing of God will be on him too. And *Gen.* the 28th, you read that Jacob had the bleſſing of his father and God too, they both go hand in hand together, but Eſau could never have it from his father or God. Read this, all poor children, that ſet ſo light, ſo ſmall a price on the bleſſing of your parents, *Heb.* ii. 16, 17. Eſau is called a prophane perſon, he ſought for the bleſſing of his father and the bleſſing of God, for God has ſet a mark on them, there is no bleſſing of God belongs to wicked children; the fifth commandment is to all children, to honour their fathers and mothers, to thoſe belong the bleſſing of their parents. King Solomon glories, that he had the bleſſing of his father on him.

4. Have a care, all you poor children, not to have a mark on you, to be in that Number of

wicked children, *Prov.* xxx. 17. The eye that mocketh at his father, and deſpiſeth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley ſhall pick it out, and the young eagle ſhall eat it: That is to ſay, God's dreadful Judgments ſhall follow them, that nothing ſhall proſper that they do. In *Mat.* xv. 4, the Lord Jeſus Chriſt commands children to honour their fathers and mothers, that their days may be long, and he that curſes his father or mother, let him die for it. St. Paul commands children to obey their parents in all things that is right, for that is well pleaſing to the Lord, *Col.* iii. 21. The time ſhall come that children will be diſobedient. A child that ſets light by his father or mother is marked by God himſelf to be a curſed child. The ſtubborn child is called by God himſelf a Rebel, and no death is bad enough for rebels, and God commands to bring this child out, and have him ſtoned to death. What can be worſe in a nation than rebels? None are put to ſuch deaths as rebels, their very Lives are made odious above all people, ſo it is with all wicked children, *Exod.* xxi. 15. The child that curſes his father or mother ſhall be put to death. No Venom in a family like this. Remember Ely's children, they were all cut off, root and branch.

Have a care all wicked and you ungodly wretches, as you love your poor ſouls, be not diſobedient to your poor ſouls, be not diſobedient to your parents, *Rom.* i. 30. diſobedient children deſerve to die the death.

Let Children come from never ſo good a Family, if they are wicked to their Parents, they will come to untimely Ends, *Proverbs* xx. and xxiii. The child that curſes his Father or his Mother, his Lamp ſhall be put out in obſcure places, that is they ſhall come to an untimely End. And this was the Sin of Ely's Children. They brought God's Judgment on a whole Family. Here are Leſſons for all gracious and good children, follow the Steps of theſe great Perſons, pay all Honour, Reſpect, and Obedience to your parents, and be ſure to ſecure the Bleſſing of your Parents to you; remember your Lord and Saviour was obedient to his earthly Parents, *Luke* viii. 5. Though he was the Son of God, the great Creator of Heaven and Earth, that Perſon of the glorious Trinity, yet was obedient to his Parents.

Firſt, Conſider, that God is a Father to the Fatherleſs, and a Judge in the Widow's Cauſe, have a Care. And who dare to plead againſt the Fatherleſs Children, have you loſt a Father

that will never forſake you? Have you loſt a Husband on Earth? You have a Husband in Heaven, who will judge your Cauſe, *Pſal.* lxviii. 6. Have a Care how you wrong the Widow and Fatherleſs, leſt ſome dreadful Judgment fall upon you, *Deut.* xiv. 19, 20, 21. What Care did God take for the Stranger, the Widow, and the Fatherleſs, what a ſad Complaint does God make againſt his own Children, oppreſs not the Widow nor the Fatherleſs, nor the Stranger, and we ſhall dwell in this Place, *Jer.* vi. 7. For if you are guilty of oppreſſing them, ſome heavy Judgment will certainly fall upon you, From which, *Good Lord deliver us.*

FINIS.